

**Remarks by Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr.  
American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Networking Night  
Resorts World Manila  
November 3, 2010, 7:00 p.m.**

*Magandang gabi sa inyong lahat.*

It is rare that I can congratulate someone who was born in the same year, 1943, when the Thomas Jefferson Memorial was completed in Washington, D.C., or for that matter whose lifespan began at the same time as the classic movie “Casablanca” with Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

As many of you may know, Rob Sears was born in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and studied at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. After college he served in the U.S. Air Force, where he earned a Bronze Star during the Vietnam War and subsequently obtained the rank of Captain.

From 1970 to 1990, he was with Merrill Lynch International in seven countries overseas. He last served as a Vice President and as the Retail Branch Office Manager in the Philippines before becoming Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc. in 1990. Rob was also President of AmCham Philippines from 1988 to 1989.

For more than two decades, U.S. business has enjoyed a friendly and beneficial relationship with the Philippines through the leadership of Robert Sears at the American Chamber of Commerce. He has played a key role in fostering and promoting trade, commerce and investment for the mutual benefit of the United States and the Philippines.

I recently returned from a trip to the United States, where I met with former Ambassador to the Philippines John Negroponte. He was pleased and surprised to hear that Rob is still the Executive Director of AmCham Philippines, and he asked me to send his best wishes.

Rob, I commend you on your service to the United States and with AmCham, and wish you the very best on your birthday and in all your future endeavors.

*Mabuhay ka, Rob!*